NATURE CONSERVATION NEWS

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Aug. 1954

DOME ISLAND

Dome Island, in New York's Lake George, is being set aside in its wild state as a permanent nature preserve through the efforts of the Eastern New York Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and conservation-minded residents of the lakeshore.

Rising from the center of the lake's widest part to a height of seventy-five feet, the oak and pine-covered island is one of the area's prime scenic attractions. It is a glacial kame with a rounded boulder and pebble base, about 2300 feet long. Covered by a forest of old-growth black and white oak, white and red pine, hemlock, beech, basswood and canoe birch, with arbor vitae along the waterline, it is the scenic gem of Lake George.

Addressing the Governors Conference at Lake George on July 12, Vice President Nixon said of the scene before them which included Dome Island and its mountain backdrop: "...I think that I can say without fear of contradiction that there is no view in the United States which excels this one."

Mr. John S. Apperson, owner of Dome Island for the past 15 years, acquired it to preserve its natural beauty undisturbed. He now seeks a more permanent form of preservation, and will turn it over to the Nature Conservancy providing adequate funds are raised for its continued care. An endowment of $20,000 is being sought.

Dr. Irving Langmuir, Nobel prize-winning physicist and retired head of General Electric's research laboratories, has been appointed by the Nature Conservancy's Board of Governors to head the Dome Island Committee. Working with him are Alvin G. Whitney, New York representative of the Conservancy, Mr. Apperson, members of the Eastern New York Chapter, and summer residents of Lake George.

Headquarters of the Dome Island Committee are at Dr. Langmuir's home, 1176 Stratford Road, Schenectady, New York. Contributions should be made to the Nature Conservancy and marked "Dome Island Fund".

REGIONAL NOTES

BAHAMAS: The Society for the Protection of the Flamingo in the Bahamas is reviving the diminishing flocks of these rare birds. It has employed wardens to prevent hunting by the natives. Through the Society's efforts, planes have been forbidden to fly low over the nesting grounds, depredation by wild hogs has been ended, and the population has been aroused to defend the national bird. A special contribution from one of our members enabled the Nature Conservancy to help support this work.

MASSACHUSETTS: Members and friends of the Conservancy in Massachusetts will gather at Crane's Beach, Ipswich, on October 9. Dr. Charles Brooks, of Harvard's Blue Hill Observatory will address the gathering on "Conservation and Climate", and the Trustees of Reservations will be host. Members of the New England Biological Association have been invited to meet with the group.

MICHIGAN: Hawks and owls in the Wolverine State are protected by a new state law. The bill was passed after an intensive state-wide educational campaign, the National Audubon Society reports. No hawk or owl in Michigan may be destroyed except by farmers on the rare occasions when they are doing actual damage to domestic stock. Hawks and owls are not protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty as are most other wild birds, and Connecticut is the only other state to give them full protection.

NEW YORK: Long Island members of the Nature Conservancy plan to meet in early October to discuss the formation of a Long Island Chapter. The Board of Governors has approved plans for the chapter. The steering committee is under the leadership of Mr. George H. Peters, of 175 East Seaman Ave., Freeport.

OREGON: Notice has been given by the U. S. Forest Service of intention to modify the existing Three Sisters Primitive Area on the Cascade Divide in

central Oregon and to establish two new wild areas in the same region.

The Three Sisters tract is to be reclassified from "primitive area" to "wilderness area" status, a technical change which brings the area under more secure regulations. In doing this, the Forest Service intends to eliminate 55,620 acres on the west side of the present area and add 5,532 acres on the northern and eastern boundaries. The elimination will be for the purpose of making available to commercial use approximately 1½ billion board feet of timber. The area to be eliminated is considered by the Forest Service to be of little recreational value. The original proposal several years ago was to eliminate an even larger section, but this has been modified as a result of the insistence of Oregon scientists and conservationists that the tract is outstanding. The Forest Service claims the present proposal will allow adequate retention of values.

Further information may be obtained from Regional Forester J. Herbert Stone, P. O. Box 4137, Portland, Oregon. A public hearing is to be held after December 1.

PANDORA'S BOX

The grave consequences that may arise as a result of tampering with the balance of nature are illustrated in a story from a recent I.U.P.N. Bulletin. Most everyone has heard of attempts to control rabbit populations in Australia by the introduction of the virus Myxomatosis which is spread by mosquitoes and birds. A certain Frenchman also heard of the experiment and decided it would be an excellent way to rid his property of rabbits. In 1952 he inoculated two rabbits with the disease, turned them loose, and sat back to await the results.

They were not long in coming. The disease spread all over France and in some districts nine-tenths of the wild rabbits have been killed. Domestic rabbits have been hit hard. The sickness has spread to Belgium, Holland, the Rhineland, and to England where it is feared the experiment was repeated.

The chain of events set off by the disease has had far-reaching effects on many segments of the French population. Hunters are furious; domestic rabbit breeders are apprehensive; furriers are forced to import rabbit pelts; farmers are finding foxes turning to henhouses for food. An alarming further consequence is the appearance of a malady among game-keepers and rabbit consumers in which the mucous membranes of the mouth become inflamed.

We lift the lid from a Pandora's box when we carelessly interfere with nature's equilibrium.

I.U.P.N. MEETING

Copenhagen will be the scene, from August 25 to September 3, of the Fourth General Assembly of the International Union for the Protection of Nature. Nature Conservancy delegates to the meetings will be Mrs. Henry H. Porter of Washington, D.C. and Mr. William Vogt, National Director of the Planned Parenthood Federation.

The Fifth Technical Meeting, held this year in conjunction with the assembly, will deal with three most pressing international problems: the protection of Arctic fauna, the effects of modern insecticides on mammals, birds, and insects, and means of publicizing nature protection. Population problems and the relation of ecology to nature protection will be discussed at separate meetings.

Like the Conservancy, the IUPN has been appalled by the enormity of its task, and has devoted itself to "the least costly and the most urgent" projects. Support comes principally from member organizations and agencies. The IUPN urgently needs additional funds. Gifts may be made through the Conservancy.

CENTRAL OFFICE NOTES

Walt L. Muhlbach has joined the Nature Conservancy staff as field representative. His work will include helping local groups and representatives to organize their activities.

Mr. Muhlbach has been interested in natural history since childhood. He studied the flora and fauna of each region in which he has lived, including New Jersey, the Middle West, Southwest, and California. Several years as a ranch hand and farm work gave him insight into the problems of land management. His training included ecology at Oberlin College under Paul Sears and graduate studies in wildlife management at Ohio State University. He is a member of the Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Society, Wilson Ornithological Club, American Ornithologists Union, Society of Mammalogists, and Ecological Society.

* * *

New quarters must be obtained soon. We are investigating several promising possibilities, but still need all possible help. A permanent location with ample floor space close to a well located city would be a tremendous help.

INFORMATION BULLETINS AVAILABLE

As an aid to participants in the nature preservation movement, the Nature Conservancy has issued several special bulletins. The following are of general interest:

Bul. No. 4. How to preserve an area. This is written for the benefit of owners of lands having natural values. It was first issued a year ago and is now available in revised form.

MEETING OF

NATURE CONSERVANCY AND OTHER SOCIETIES

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Gainesville, Florida September 5-9, 1954

Sponsored by American Institute of Biological Sciences

• **Participating Societies:**

American Bryological Society
American Fern Society
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Human Genetics
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
American Society of Naturalists
American Society of Limnology and Oceanography
American Society of Plant Physiologists
American Society of Plant Taxonomists
Biometric Society (ENAR)
Botanical Society of America
Ecological Society of America
Florida Association of Science Teachers
Genetics Society of America
Mycological Society of America
National Association of Biology Teachers
Nature Conservancy
Phi Sigma
Phycological Society
Sigma Delta Epsilon
Society for Industrial Microbiology
Society of Protozoologists
Society for the Study of Evolution
Society of Systematic Zoology

• **Eastern Air Lines** is the only airline operating into Gainesville, Florida. The company has offered to provide supplementary service beyond that normally scheduled for the convenience of those attending the AIBS meetings. Those interested should advise their local agents who will contact Eastern Air Lines in Jacksonville, Florida.

INFORMATION ON HOUSING

DORMITORY ACCOMMODATIONS: University Dormitories will be available for housing couples and families as well as single delegates. Accommodations will be available also in hotels and motels in the City of Gainesville.

DORMITORY ROOMS MAY BE OCCUPIED: Any time from noon on Sunday, September 5th until 10 a. m. on Thursday, September 9th.

PRE- AND POST-MEETING HOUSING: Arrangements should be made by individual delegates through Dr. John Henry Davis, Department of Botany, University of Florida.

RESERVATIONS: Dormitories—May be made from now until September 2nd. Payment is to be made at check-in time. Hotels and Motels—May be made from now until September 2nd. The University Division of Housing will make reservations for you in off-campus housing but will not guarantee them.

RATES: Per Person in Dormitories, Sunday evening to Thursday at $2.25 per night. Hotel, $5.00 up. Motel, $5.00 up.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: Each advance reservation received before August 26th will be acknowledged by a form which should be presented at the registration desk in September. Registration will be in the Main Lobby of Broward Hall, Inner Drive.

MEALS: No set cost. Cafeteria style with exception of banquets. Delegates will pay for and receive banquet tickets at registration.

TO MAKE ADVANCE REGISTRATION: Please fill out the registration form below and mail to:

D. W. Vermilye, Director
Division of Housing—Dept. "A"
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION)

REGISTRATION AND HOUSING APPLICATION

Name..... Male ☐ Female ☐
(first) (middle) (surname)

Home Address:.....
(street)
(city) (zone) (state)

Full Names, Sex, Relationship of Members of My Party:

.....

.....

.....

Professional Address:.....

Title:.....

Institution:.....

Society Membership:

(1).....

(2).....

(3).....

Expected Time of Arrival:.....
(date, hour)

Departure:.....
(date, hour)

Arrival: By Train ☐
By Plane ☐
By Car ☐

Please make reservations for me (and my party) in:

Dormitories ☐
Hotel ☐
Motel ☐

Nature Conservancy Program

Sunday, September 5

Evening: 8:00 Board of Governors Meeting, Room 206, Administration Bldg.

Monday, September 6

Noon: 12:00 Nature Conservancy Luncheon, Social Room, Florida Union

Tuesday, September 7

Morning: 9:00 Business Session, Room 102, Business Administration Bldg.

Afternoon: 2:00 Invited Speaker. Charles H. Wharton: The Wild Cattle of Cambodia. (16 mm. Movie)

3:00 Progress and Problems in Natural Area Conservation

Field Trips

• Sixteen field trips have been completely or tentatively planned in connection with the Gainesville AIBS meetings. The means of transportation and cost will depend upon the number of persons taking part. Last date noted is final date for reservations. Any person attending the meetings may take part in the field trips by contacting the leader listed.

A. Trips Starting at Gainesville.

1. Southern Florida, Miami, Everglades Park, and Keys region. 4 days, 3 nights; Sept. 2-5. To Miami via Lakeland, Sebring, the Everglades; return via Atlantic coast, Orlando. Two days at University of Miami and 3 trips each day from there. *Ecological Society*, J. H. Davis, Dept. of Botany, U. of Florida, Gainesville. Place on bus available only if cancellations occur. August 15.

2. Commercial citrus and vegetable production and processing; ornamental nurseries and gardens; subtropical fruit plantings and sugar cane production and processing. 3 days, 2 nights; Sept. 2-4, by bus. *Amer. Soc. for Horticultural Science*, F. S. Jamison, Agricultural Exp. Station, U. of Florida, Gainesville. August 20.

3. Near Gainesville, Magnesia Springs, Gulf Hammock, Buzzards Roost. One trip each day. Sept. 3, 4, 5. *Mycological Society*, Erdman West, Agri. Exp. Station, U. of Florida, Gainesville. August 25.

4. Ocala National Forest. One day, Sept. 4. *Amer. Soc. Plant Taxonomists*, Lillian Arnold, Herbarium, Agric. Exp. Station, U. of Florida, Gainesville, August 15.

5. Aquatic Localities. Silver Springs, Orange Springs, Marineland. One day, Sept. 5. *Amer. Soc. Limnology & Oceanography*, H. T. Odum, Dept. Biology, U. of Florida, Gainesville. Sept. 1.

6. Near Gainesville, Newnan's Lake, Devil's Millhopper, morning and afternoon, Sept. 5. *Amer. Soc. Plant Taxonomists*, Lillian Arnold, Herbarium, Agri. Exp. Station, U. of Florida, Gainesville. August 15.

7. Silver Springs, Ross Allen Reptile Institute. Afternoon, Sept. 5. *Amer. Soc. Ichthyologists and Herpetologists*, W. A. Auffenberg, Dept. Biology, U. of Florida. August 15.

8. Juniper Springs in Ocala National Forest. One day, Sept. 5. *Amer. Bryological Society*, Ruth S. Breen, Dept. Botany, Florida State University, Tallahassee. August 25.

9. Near Gainesville. Afternoon, Sept. 7. *National Association of Biology Teachers*, N. E. Bingham, College of Education, U. of Florida, Gainesville. Sept. 6.

10. Fresh Water Habitats south of Gainesville, Rainbow Springs, Crystal River, Homosassa Springs. One day, Sept. 8. *Phycological Society*, L. A. Whitford, Dept. Botany, N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C. August 25.

11. Yerkes Primate Laboratory, Orange Park. One day, Sept. 8. Social Organization Section of *Ecological Society*, J. P. Scott, Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine. August 25.

12. Near Gainesville and south. One trip each day, Sept. 8, 9. *Amer. Fern Society*, John Beckner, 736 Myrtle Way South, St. Petersburg, Florida. August 15.

B. Trips Starting at Tallahassee.

13. Alligator Harbor Marine Laboratory of Florida State University. 5 days, Sept. 1-5. Boats and facilities available. *Phycological Society*, H. J. Humm, Oceanographic Institute, Florida State University, Tallahassee. August 25.

14. Apalachicola River Bluffs, Torreya State Park. One day, Sept. 3. *Amer. Bryological Society*, Ruth S. Breen, Dept. Botany, Florida State University, Tallahassee. August 25.

C. Trips Starting at Miami.

15. Three regions south of Miami; Florida Keys, Everglades National Park, Coral Reefs. This is part of trip #1. Two days, Sept. 3, 4. *Ecological Society*, Roy Woodbury, Dept. Botany, University of Miami, Coral Gables. August 15.

16. Southern Florida; to Gainesville via Clewiston, Ft. Meade, Tampa. 4 days, 3 nights. Sept. 1-5. *Amer. Fern Society*, John Beckner, 736 Myrtle Way South, St. Petersburg, Florida. August 15.

Bul. No. 5. Check list of criteria for selecting natural areas for nature preserves.

Bul. No. 6. Chapters of the Nature Conservancy. A discussion of the principal features of the chapter program, including information on how to organize a chapter.

Bul. No. 7. How you can help with nature preservation activities. Includes suggestions of things one can do individually and ways to organize group efforts.

Bul. No. 8. The Massachusetts Trustees of Reservations. A case study of an organization dedicated to saving places of historic interest and natural beauty. Because it has been operating in the nature preservation field since 1891, the experiences of this group discussed in this bulletin should be of great value as guides to preservation efforts developing elsewhere.

Bul. No. 9. Property tax exemption laws. A preliminary survey of state laws that shows what exemption provisions may be applicable to nature preserves under organizational ownership. Includes a general discussion and a state by state summary.

STATE PARK TRENDS

The total net increase in state park lands in the United States last year was only 12,421 acres, according to figures released by the National Park Service. This represents the difference between 20,991 acres acquired and 8,570 disposed of. Probably high land values have something to do with this, but high land values are a reflection of increasing population pressure and they may continue indefinitely. In the meantime, areas that should be preserved are being destroyed.

The 1,856 state park areas total 4,857,526 acres. Of this amount, about half is in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks in New York. If the acreage of these is deducted, the total for other state parks is only 2,435,646. When one considers the highly modified character of many of the areas involved, it is apparent that the preservation of nature through state parks is not proceeding at too rapid a pace.

Attendance total for the year was 159,000,000, continuing the upward trend that has been evident for the last eight years. Expenditures, revenue, and personnel have likewise increased.

PUBLICITY FOR NATURAL VALUES OF ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK

BEACH PARK IS MUSEUM, SAYS BOTANY EXPERT

Milwaukee Museum Curator Writes That Nature Area Should Be Saved.

BY ALBERT M. FULLER
Curator of Botany
Milwaukee Public Museum

A museum has been defined as the place devoted to the collection and preservation of works of nature, art, and antiquity, or to the exhibition of rare and instructive articles in the arts, science, or literature. With this definition of a museum in mind, the Waukegan-Zion area truly qualifies as an outdoor museum. The beach, dunes, Dead River, the swales and marshes, and the ridges have provided habitats for plants and animals since the Ice Age.

Plants from the north, east, south and west intermingle here, forming a "melting pot" of the plant world. Plants that migrated from the Atlantic Coastal Plain at the close of the Ice Age grow along the beach and on the dunes and sandy ridges. A large number of plants have migrated from the prairies and plains of the west forming colorful assemblies on the moist ridges and in the swales and marshes. Fifty-five plant associations consisting of more than five hundred species of flowering plants have been recorded for the Waukegan moorlands.

HAVEN FOR PLANTS

For thousands of years, the great variety of plant habitats that occur in the region have provided "heavens-of-refuge" for plants. If the rare and beautiful plants of the moorlands are to be saved from destruction, it is imperative that their habitats must be preserved and given permanent protection. Packing of the soil by the tramping of many visitors; changing of the water level by drainage projects or by dams will destory or modify the most important habitats of the moorlands. Violets, painted cup, shooting star, yellow star grass, blue-eyed grass, red phlox, prairie phlox, and the puccoons will no longer paint the moist ridges with their living colors if the moist, porous, sandy loamy soil is packed by a multitude of folk seeking recreation. The heavy recreational uses of many of the areas in the moorlands will destroy or exterminate most of the native species. Modifying of the habitats will encourage the aggressive weeds to take over. Most of our native plants cannot compete with weeds successfully.

Originally, the Waukegan — Kenosha area had the finest low prairie flora that was to be found in the Midwest. Low prairies with their original vegetation have just about become extinct. The preservation of low prairies alone would justify the establishment of sanctuaries in the region. Prairie plants have the most colorful flowers of all of our plants of the Midwest. In early June, a swale bordered wth a scarlet band of the painted cup is a sight to behold. In early July, the golden-yellow flowers of the prickly pear cactus gives an Arizona aspect to the higher sandy ridges. In August and September, blazing star, goldenrods, asters and sunflowers stage a spectactular festival of color on the moist prairie areas.

ONLY PLACE LEFT

More interesting and colorful plants grow in the Waukegan moorlands than in any other locality in the Midwest. The great variety of habitats is partially responsible for this unusual concentration of plants. Every effort possible should be made to protect and to preserve the habitats of these plants. Additional tracts of land should be purchased to provide expansion areas to take care of the everincreasing crowds that are visiting the state park annually.

In planning and administering the park, the present and future security of the plants and animals of the region should receive first consideration. Samples of all of the vegetational types should be preserved in protected areas or sanctuaries. Beach areas, pools, Dead River, marshes, swales, and ridges should all be included in sanctuaries.

It is vital to our welfare to preserve samples of all of our plants and animals. Today, we may not know what plants and animals will serve us in unique ways in future years. We need to preserve samples of the various soil types. Virgin soils contain the greatest number of soil organisms. Some of the soil organisms produce antibiotic substances which have been extremely valuable in medicine. At least, one prairie plant, the ox-eye, produces an antibotic which has become important commercially.

Multiple-use, properly planned, can be made of the Waukegan moorlands. It can serve as one of the finest out-door museums in the country. It can serve as a reserve of plant and animal types. It can provide outdoor recreational facilities for hundreds of thousands of people in northeastern Illinois.

from THE WAUKEGAN NEWS-SUN
Tuesday, May 25, 1954

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
607 G STREET, SOUTHEAST
WASHINGTON 3, D. C.

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of our organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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The Nature Conservancy
607 G Street, S. E.
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Regular $2; Sustaining $5;
Contributing $10; Supporting $25 or more;
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POLLUTION

RADIOACTIVE WASTES

A problem that conservationists will become more conscious of in the future is that of disposal of radioactive wastes. Ordinary pollution is problem enough, but consider the complications of a material whose deadly effects cannot be entirely neutralized by treatment.

The Atomic Energy Commission and several leading universities are now working on this and hope to come up with a solution. Among the proposed methods of disposal are storage for indefinite periods of time in radiation-proof tanks, extreme dilution by sea water, and incorporation into the body of some synthesized material such as baked clay.

Meanwhile the wastes accumulate and the situation becomes more acute. Let us hope that provision for disposal of such materials is worked out before industry takes over and begins flooding our streams with radioactive material.

OIL

Another pollution problem, that of ships jettisoning oils and oily bilgewaters on the seas, is making progress toward a solution. Last fall the British Advisory Committee on Oil Pollution called a conference at London. The United States, France, Holland, and Scandinavian countries were represented.

It was agreed that the only satisfactory policy would be to prevent the discharge of persistent oil into the sea altogether, a measure that should be secured through an international agreement. Some of the oil companies seem willing to cooperate and to provide port facilities for oil disposal ashore. Another needed improvement is installation on ships of separators to ensure that ballast water from tanks previously used for fuel oil can be discharged free of oil. Until measures such as these can be adopted and enforced, responsible governments should see that the rule of not discharging oil within fifty miles of land is strictly followed.

The British government has decided to invite the principal maritime nations to an international convention at which measures to check oil pollution will be devised and terms of reference for an international congress to achieve this purpose prepared. A workable agreement between nations on this issue will give oceanic birds a new lease on life.